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REPORT

OF THE

Auditors of Finances

AND THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF ATKINSON, N. H.,

FOR THE

Year Ending March 1st, 1879.

HAVERHILL:

MITCHELL & HOYT, STEAM JOB PRINTERS, DAILY BULLETIN OFFICE.

1879.

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ATKINSON, N. H.

MODERATOR,
GREENLEAF CLARKE.

TOWN CLERK,
S. BURLEY MASON.

SELECTMEN,
ENOCH P. HOITT, STEPHEN S. SHANNON,
STEPHEN C. P. TREFRY.

TREASURER,
WELLMAN W. HATCH.

COLLECTOR,
WILLIAM T. BRAGDON.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
JOHN V. HAZEN, JOHN DOW.

AUDITORS,
EDWARD GREENOUGH, SAMUEL C. CHANDLER,
WILLIAM C. NOYES.

ATKINSON, N. H., March 1st, 1879.

We, the undersigned, Auditors for the Town of Atkinson for the year ending March 1st, 1879, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Collector and Treasurer, and have found them correctly kept and supported by the proper vouchers.

SAMUEL G. CHANDLER, }
WM. C. NOYES, } Auditors.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN, APRIL 1ST, 1879.

Number of Polls 155,	value	\$15,500 00
“ Horses 105,	“	6,095 00
“ Neat stock 379,	“	11,965 00
“ Hogs	“	328 00
“ Carriages	“	630 00
Money at interest,		12,040 00
Stock in trade,		2,612 00
Mills, value		1,800 00
Land and buildings, “		240,946 00
Total,		\$291,916 00
Resident valuation,		\$239,792 00
Non resident “		52,124 00

On which valuation the Selectmen have assessed the following amount at one dollar and thirty-five cents per one hundred dollars.

State tax,	\$716 00
County “	980 02
School	626 50
Town	1500 00

Percentage,	119 42
Non resident highway,	156 28
Dog tax (added),	43 00
Total,	<u>\$4,141 22</u>

Which sum was committed to William T. Bragdon, Collector of Taxes, for collection.

The Selectmen have also received and paid into the treasury the following sums:

Savings Bank tax,	\$60 08
Railroad " "	47 37
Literary fund,	25 16
Sale of lots in new Cemetery,	30 00
	<u>\$162 61</u>

The Selectmen have given orders on the treasury as follows:

BILLS OUTSTANDING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
YEAR 1878

George Wright, services as sexton at J. Prescott funeral,	\$5 50
E. P. Hoitt, cash paid at J. Prescott " "	2 00
C. F. Noyes, watering trough (1877),	3 00
C. F. Noyes, snow bill " "	2 75
A. J. Hall, plank and repairs on bridge (1877),	3 06
A. J. Hall, non-resident highway tax " "	2 87
	<u>\$19 18</u>

SCHOOLS.

Gilman Greenough,	\$145 00
Greenleaf Clarke,	145 00
Herman Noyes,	145 00
John Pettengill,	145 00
Moses B. Stevens,	145 00

G. W. Tibbetts (Salem), Conley's tax,	2 27
I. A. Cline & Co., school maps,	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$752 27

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

D. W. Goodnow,	\$4 15
E. P. Hoitt,	52 42
S. S. Shannon,	17 48
J. Pettengill,	5 40
T. L. Page,	1 57
C. F. Noyes,	1 31
John Little,	14 74
	<hr/>
	\$97 07
Non-resident highway receipts,	58 10

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

S. S. Shannon, labor and lumber repairing bridge near A. J. Hall,	\$28 55
Greenleaf Clarke, repairing bridge near W. C. Noyes	4 25
Greenleaf Clarke, building stone bridge near T. Goodrich,	7 50
D. W. Goodnow, culvert near O. L. Whittaker,	9 58
S. C. P. Trefry, plank and labor on bridge near D. Hitchcock,	20 23
John A. Hall, work on Highway Dist. No. 9,	13 10
	<hr/>
	\$83 21

SNOW BILLS.

Greenleaf Clarke,	\$7 08
Thomas L. Page,	5 68
S. S. Shannon,	12 39
John Pettengill,	2 75
E. P. Hoitt,	10 64
George P. Dow,	4 25
C. F. Noyes,	4 96

John Little,	6 53
George A. Harding,	1 50
John A. Hall,	2 50
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	\$58 28

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Martha V. Hazen, overtaxed,	\$5 40
Jacob H. Shedd,	1 65
Joseph Piersons, poll tax (over 70 years old),	1 35
Michael Birmingham, overtaxed (1877),	51
Joseph Grover, poll tax (over 70 years old),	1 35
James G. Bassett, overtax on real estate (1877 and 1878)	7 00
Ebenezer Dustin, one yoke oxen (taxed elsewhere),	1 81
A. B. Little, Collector, 1877, abatement as follows :	
Peter Beldue, poll tax,	1 45
Alfred Bennett, tax on poll and property,	3 05
C. C. Conley, " " "	1 83
Aaron Colburn. " " "	3 03
A. J. Elliott, poll and dog tax,	2 45
Pano K. Gospadino, poll "	1 45
R. C. McNiel, " "	1 45
John Roberts, " "	1 45
Arthur W. Richardson, " "	1 45
Samuel Smith, 2d, " "	1 45
Hezekiah Smith, " "	1 45
Morris P. White, " "	1 45
	<hr/>
	\$41 03

EXPENSE OF DEFENDING SUIT DOW VS. TOWN.

E. P. Hoitt, time and expense to Exeter March 28 and May 1st, 1878,	\$4 62
E. P. Hoitt, time and expense to Portsmouth Oct. 10th, and Exeter Nov. 20th, 1878,	5 60
E. P. Hoitt, time and expense to Exeter and Concord Dec. 2d, 3d and 4th,	7 80
S. S. Shannon, time and expense to Exeter twice,	4 60
	<hr/>
	\$22 62

462 1618
 550 7.25-
 780 5.50
 345- 47.50
 2144 76.83
 21.47
 98.40

462
 160
 180

462
 180

282

MISCELLANEOUS.

George E. Lane, books and stationery,	\$7 00
Mitchell & Hoyt, printing reports (1877),	15 00
George A. Harding, care of town hall,	1 00
E. P. Hoitt, trees for the cemetery,	16 18
E. P. Hoitt, time for getting and setting trees, and use of horse,	7 75
S. S. Shannon, time for getting and setting trees, and mulch,	5 75
S. C. P. Trefry, setting trees,	1 25
D. W. Goodnow, " "	2 00
S. S. Shannon, tramps,	18 00
John Dow, ringing bell,	30 00
S. S. Shannon, labor on new cemetery,	21 62
Greenleaf Clarke (trustee), rent of town hall.	30 00
E. P. Hoitt, time and expense to Concord to pay State tax,	3 45
A. McKinnon, keeping two tramps,	1 50
E. P. Hoitt, straps, chains and work on hearse,	5 50
S. S. Shannon, bounty on hawks,	3 00
W. W. Hatch, expense to Exeter to pay County tax,	2 15
George P. Dow, supplies to Hezekiah Smith,	8 37
S. B. Mason, repairs on cemetery gate,	75
C. F. Noyes, watering trough,	3 00

 \$183 27

TOWN OFFICERS.

S. G. Chandler, Auditor,	\$3 00
William T. Bragdon, Collector,	41 41
W. W. Hatch, Treasurer,	20 00
J. V. Hazen, School Committee,	7 00
John Dow, " "	13 00
S. B. Mason, Town Clerk,	17 73
S. C. P. Trefry, services as Selectman,	23 50
S. S. Shannon, " "	25 00
E. P. Hoitt, " "	47 50

 \$198 19

RECAPITULATION.

Bills outstanding,	\$19 18
Schools,	752 27
Non-resident highway money orders,	97 07
Highways and bridges,	83 21
Snow bills,	58 28
Abatement of taxes,	41 03
Expense of defending suit Dow vs. Town,	22 62
Miscellaneous,	183 27
Town officers,	198 19

\$1,455 12

Whole amount received from all sources,	4,303 83
Whole amount of bills paid,	3,151 14

Leaving the sum of	\$1,152 69
To pay the town debt and interest.	

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

The Collector charges himself as follows :

Taxes committed for collection,	\$4,141 22
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The Collector credits himself as follows :

Receipts of Town Treasurer,	3,801 22
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Balance in hands of Collector,	\$340 00
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WILLIAM T. BRAGDON, Collector.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

For the year ending March 1st, 1879.

The Treasurer charges himself as follows :

Cash in treasury March 1st, 1878,	\$326 19
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Received of the Collector of 1876,	49 50
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“ “ “ “ 1877,	910 00
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“ “ “ “ 1878,	3,801 22
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“ “ State Treasurer, Railroad tax,	47 37
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“ “ “ “ Savings Bank tax,	60 08
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“ “ “ “ Literary Fund,	25 16
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“ on Town notes,	500 00
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“ from choice of lots in new cemetery,	30 00
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\$5,749 52

The Treasurer credits himself as follows :

By amount paid on Town notes,	\$1800 00
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Interest on “ “	216 46
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Orders paid,	1,455 12
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State tax,	716 00
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County “	980 02
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Non-resident highway receipts,	58 10
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\$5,225 70

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer,	523 82
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TOWN LIABILITIES.

To sundry notes and interest,	\$3,205 00
Land damage for cemetery,	200 00
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	\$3,405 00

ASSETS.

Cash in hands of Collector, 1877,	\$116 07
" " " 1878,	340 00
" Treasury,	523 82
Amount due from lots in cemetery,	65 75
Due from County on account of paupers,	8 73
	<hr/>
	\$1,054 37
Balance against the Town,	2,350 63
Reduction of Town debt,	859 19
Reduction in interest bearing notes,	1,307 33
There is also a claim against the United States of	1,285 60
Which if reckoned would make the balance against the	
Town,	1,065 03

W. W. HATCH, Treasurer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

GILMAN GREENOUGH, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught by Miss Clara J. Johnson during a term of eight weeks.

Whole number pupils attending,	6
Average,	5.

The wages paid were \$24 per month.

This teacher had previously taught in this district, and come bearing a recommendation from the gentleman who was superintendent at that time. She entered upon her work with a conscientious purpose to make the most of those placed under her care. As far as could be judged from the appearance of the school, she was patient and faithful in the performance of her duties. The school was small, and, as a consequence, lacked that enthusiasm which a larger number tends to inspire.

This school was taught the second term by Miss Clara J. Johnson, seventeen weeks.

Whole number of scholars this term,	10.
Average attendance,	5½.
The wages paid were \$24 per month.	

Reported by JOHN DOW.

All attended to reading and spelling; 5 to penmanship; 8 to arithmetic; 3 to grammar; and all to vocal music. I visited this school at the commencement of the term and was well pleased with the course pursued by the teacher, and have no doubt the scholars made good progress. but owing to the severe storm on the day of examination, at the close of the term, I was unable to attend.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

GREENLEAF CLARKE, Prudential Committee.

The Spring term of eleven weeks was taught by Miss Sarah N. Clarke.

Whole number of pupils attending,	8.
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Average attendance,	6.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

This was a new experience for Miss Clarke, and she entered upon her labors with a zeal and determination which presaged success. Possessing a dignity of manner, and exercising decision, tempered with kindness, she was able to bend youthful enthusiasm into the channel of improvement. The scholars never seemed indifferent, and gave evidence at the close of the term, that their teacher's duties had been faithfully discharged. The result was commendatory to themselves also.

Reported by JOHN DOW.

This school was taught the second term by Miss Sarah N. Clarke, eleven and one-half weeks.

Whole number of scholars,	8.
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Average attendance,	5.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

All attended to reading and spelling; 6 to penmanship; 6 to arithmetic; 6 to geography; 4 to grammar; 1 to composition and 1 to United States History.

This was Miss Clarke's first school, but she was well qualified and gave herself to her work—the result was apparent.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

HERMON NOYES, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught in connection with the Academy.

Whole number of pupils attending,	19.
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Average,	14.
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The amount paid for instruction and the general expenses of the school, was \$32 per month.

Owing to the dilapidated condition of the school house in this district, it was thought best, at its annual meeting, to authorize their committee to make other than the usual arrangements for

holding the school. He deemed it wise to place it in the care of the principal of the Academy. Miss S. Lizzie Page, as assistant in the Academy, assumed the real supervision and instruction of the major part of the school. She engaged upon her work with a sympathy for her pupils and an interest for their *highest* improvement, which could not fail of doing them good. Her efforts were rewarded with success. Her enthusiasm and perseverance were untiring.

Reported by JOHN DOW.

The school was taught the second term by Mr. Charles D Tenney, seven weeks.

Whole number of scholars this term,	18.
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Average,	16.
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The wages paid were \$30 per month.

All attended to reading and spelling; 10 to penmanship; 15 to arithmetic; 8 to geography and 6 to grammar. The school was kept this term in the Academy building. Judging from what I saw and heard at the examination at the close of the term, the money was well spent.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

JOHN PETTENGILL, Prudential Committee.

Miss Rachel S. Corless, taught this school for a term of eleven weeks.

Whole number of pupils attending,	9.
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Average,	8.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

The people of this district were happy in again securing the services of Miss Corliss, who had previously won their confidence, and the affection of her pupils. It is sufficient to say that she fully sustained the reputation she had already acquired for efficiency, zeal and thoroughness. Her pupils were made to plough deep. The result was apparent.

Reported by JOHN DOW.

This school was taught the second term by Miss Rachel S. Corliss, twelve weeks.

Whole number of scholars,	10.
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Average,	6.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

8 attended to reading; 4 to spelling; 5 to penmanship; 5 to arithmetic; 4 to geography; 3 to grammar; 3 to composition; 1 to United States history, and 1 to algebra. This was Miss Corliss' third term in this school, and we do not hesitate to pronounce this term a success. A larger number of scholars would have added greatly to the interest.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

MOSES B. STEVENS, Prudential Committee.

Miss Nellie F. Little taught this school; The term continued eleven weeks.

Whole number of pupils attending,	16.
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Average,	13.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

This district was favored with a teacher of long experience, Miss Little having been repeatedly secured to fill the same position in other places. A marked feature of this school was the remarkably good order maintained. The school was well trained, and the subjects passed over were, apparently fully understood. Such zeal and perseverance were perceptible in the progress of the school

Reported by JOHN DOW.

This school was taught the second term by Miss Nellie F. Little, twelve weeks.

Whole number of scholars,	18.
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Average,	14.
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The wages paid were \$24 per month.

All attended to reading and spelling; 6 to penmanship; 17 to arithmetic; 4 to geography; 11 to grammar, 11 to composition; 5 to United States history; 4 to algebra, and all to vocal music. This school was well kept. The teacher has had large experience and evidently has a talent to teach. The order in this school is worthy of particular mention. The scholars made good progress, and on the whole, the school was a success in every particular.

I think it may justly be said of all the schools in town, that the aim has been to accomplish all that was possible rather than to

make a favorable impression upon others. We cannot help thinking, however, that our teachers, faithful and successful though they have been, might have achieved even more had there been a greater uniformity in the text books. Improvement can be made when every scholar in a school has a different text book, but far greater results would be gained provided uniformity existed, sufficient to repay the necessary expense.

The same thing may be said in regard to the courses of study. A systematic arrangement in the courses of study would secure larger results. Although too much stress may be laid upon the results obtained from graded schools, yet something of the kind would be an improvement. Every one knows that to be successful in business he must have definite plans and conform to them unless circumstances warrant a change. So a prescribed course of study adopted by all the schools, modified perhaps in some cases as the teacher and committee might see fit, would be an aid to the teacher, and would accomplish more towards really educating the pupils. There are men in our community who are competent and who are interested in the welfare of the young, whose services without doubt might be secured in formulating such a course. We should cherish sanguine hopes of the beneficial results of such an arrangement.

Some inexpensive apparatus would be an aid to the teacher, and therefore to the pupils. Lessons sufficiently illustrated and explained, and therefore understood, are of incomparably more value than those mechanically learned. The great aim should be to help pupils to *think* as much as possible. One genuine thought implanted in the mind, is worth pages of words not understood. If you can train a pupil to think you are training him to take care of himself, to be a man among men. If we would hope for a bright future for our country we must sustain an enlightened Christianized yeomanry who have drunk at the fountains of truth, which our good common schools do certainly aid in supplying.

Some of our citizens do not take sufficient interest in the schools, in their children as scholars. They send them to school, but do not make them feel that their improvement is of great consequence. Oftentimes, if a certain amount of work is to be accom-

plished, the school hours are broken in upon, the scholar loses his place in his class, a connecting link in his studies, finally his interest, and practically the term is lost to him. Every good teacher knows that it takes a large part of one term for the average pupil to learn how to study effectually. One reason why so many children do not enjoy attending school, is because they are not made to attend steadily and long enough to become really interested in their studies. The acquisition of knowledge, especially if the mind be steadily applied in quite early life, and a habit of thought on good themes supply sources of happiness, pure, invigorating and perennial, of which the listless and the low can form no conception. And then too as the poet says :

“The man approving what had charmed the boy,
Would die at last in comfort, peace and joy;
And not in curses on his head, who stole
The gem of truth from his unguarded soul.”

I think these desirable results would be greatly promoted if study in some profitable way were not entirely abandoned at the close of the term. Good thoughts clothed in the choice language of the best authors, will tend so to preoccupy and predispose the mind that there will be no room for low thoughts and no relish for coarse language and slang phrases.

With as good teachers as those with whom we have been favored this past year, with the co-operation of parents and people ; with a watchfulness to debar counteracting influences, at the same time inculcating on the mind the great importance of a good education, we cannot fail to make our common schools far more efficient, the community far more enlightened, better and happier, and we shall be able to feel that we are doing something toward making our country what we hope it will be in the future, “the best land the sun ever shone upon.”

Respectfully submitted.

J. V. HAZEN.

I fully concur in the views expressed by my predecessor, especially in regard to the multiplicity of text-books in our schools, and I hope something will be done in that direction, which will in some measure remedy the evil.

JOHN DOW.

1064

462

560

760

1618

775

4750

9109

345

9454

550

10004

